The promise

A look at the promised return of Jesus Christ

By REV. W. L. TRIMYER
Remembering The Promise
Lesson for April 20, 1980
Scripture References: II Peter; Jude Focal Passage: II Peter 3:3-13
SCOFFERS WHO SCOFF THE PROMISE (II Peter 3:3-7)

Last week we celebrated the Resurrection event, an event that holds historical significance and future hope for the Christian. It seems only natural, therefore, to focus our attention this week on the promised return of our Lord.

Peter rebinds his readers of the promised return of Christ and that there would be those who would deny such a return. In our own day we are faced with two extremes, namely, those who reject the return of Christ and those who set dates for his return. Both approaches are troublesome for the Christian.

Peter writes to a group of Christians whose belief that Christ would return in their lifetime was strong. The early Christians were facing the scoffers who were denying that Jesus would ever come back. The reason they "scoffed" at the idea of his return was based on their observations that everything was the same. These looked about and saw that things had not changed "since the beginning o creation," so they assumed that Christ's promise was an empty one.

The problem with those whom Peter was addressing was that they had no sense of expectancy, that is, they didn't have anything to look forward to. My guess is that life must have been boring and uneventful for these who had no sense of awe and expectancy about them.

Life does tend to become drab and uneventful if we have no sense of expectancy or joy for living.

The scoffers to whom Peter addresses himself seemed to believe that God had become idle and uninvolved in the affairs of humanity. One gigantic fact destroys the notion that God is no longer active. The fact is this, namely, that God has decisively acted in the past, in creation, the exodus and other events, and, therefore, will decisively act once again in his own time. And part of his activity would be to move in judgment against the ungodly.

REAFFIRMATION OF HIS COMING (II Peter)

Time is a key word in our thinking on this issue. The other extreme I mentioned is the idea of setting dates for the Lord's return. Various ones and groups have sought to set a date for the Lord's return. A book, **Christ Returns By 1988,** is an example of reading into the scriptures something that just isn't there. Anyone can manipulate the Bible to say what he or she wants it to say. Jesus never mentioned when he would return, only that he would return. (Read Matthew 24)

Some people talk in circles about the Lord's return and how they wish for it to happen today! I personally can't buy into that kind of thinking. I like it here and want to get as much mileage out of life as I can. I want to hold my children and play with them; I want to travel and see the world; I want to go the distance . . .!

Time is a factor of our existence as humans. We live by clocks and calendars. Eternity, however, has little or nothing to do with time as we know and experience it. Death is the event that calls time on human life. The Christian, however, receives eternal life that begins in this present life and continues on without end. Eternity actually means timelessness, a concept that is extremely difficult for us humans to comprehend. We must take care not to mold the works of God into our narrow conceptions of time. The point of verse 8 is that time is not an issue for God as it is for us.

Peter affirms to his readers that God has made adequate provisions for his people to make their peace with him. At the "appropriate time" the second coming will take place, just as Christ's first Advent came "in the fullness of time".

The message of Jesus and of the entire New Testament is that the judgment of God is coming! And it will come, according to Peter, with the unexpectedness and suddenness of a "thief in the night". Those who choose not to confess their sin and love God will face terrible consequences which will be sudden and overwhelming.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROMISED RETURN (II Peter 3:11-13)

Peter did not write to threaten not strike fear in his readers. He wrote to confirm their faith and to encourage them not to fall prey to the warped thinking of the doubters and skeptics. The idea of Christ's return should not arouse fear in us but to arouse our sense of moral and spiritual responsibility. We are to maintain a sense of urgency about doing the Lord's work "Til he comes."

We have no idea when the second advent of our Lord will take place, so we are to spend our time doing those things which make life meaningful. In other words, we are to work while we watch for his coming! We are to continue to build houses, plant gardens, and minister to the needs of people. We are to engage in continual proclamation of the Gospel.

The end of earthly history will result in a "new heaven and earth," brought about by the purging fires of God's judgement. Therefore, the last act of God regarding the earth's fate will be like his first act, namely, it will be good!

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

The Bible and daily living

Visible God

The glorious change

By KITCH SHATZER

"And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John 1:14)

The most magnificant, mind-boggling thing has happened! The Immortal, Invisible God has become mortal, visible, tangible, and we have beheld his glory, a glory surpassing all imagination. To this Creator of the universe, space and infinity are no mysteries; all things inanimate and alive must trace their origin, sustenance and destiny to this power.

Let me tell you about him, though if it were all written that could be written about him there would not be room in all the world to contain the books. But let me try to tell you at least something.

In him is life that shows what a person can become. He brings to humanity a new degree of radiance. He is so good there is no accounting for him but to concede that he is divine. A part of our consternation and confusion arises from the lack in him of what we had supposed was the indispensable clothing of majesty.

The pastor speaks

We would expect the one we claim as lord and ruler of our lives to be clothed in splendor–in riches and gold and precious jewels. But Jesus Christ, the one we claim as Lord and Master, doesn't "lord" it over us.

For all his being so wonderful, he is not acclaimed by his own people. They do not bow down before his presence or wrap him in purple velvet robes or place valuable crowns on his head.

Yet, his radiance bursts forth in deep darkness, and the darkness is not able to extinguish it. His radiance is the very unveiling of the nature of the Eternal God.

It is the offer to us of the power to become what he calls us to be: children of God! He offers us his own glory to be made ours–he offers us his own power to be made ours. What a great God we have!

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Letter

Donations appreciated

Editor

Appomattox went well over our quota for our April bloodmobile visit, which was really good as donations had been down in many other locations. Thanks donors! If we can continue to go by 25% as we did this time it will help to bring the blood bank back up to a safe level.

We had 130 people to register with four deferred and made our net collection 126.

Four of our five first-time donors were high school students and this is really great as this is the age to begin the habit of donating blood. Our first-timers were: Robert A. Fitzgerald, Jr.; Susan G. Parris, William Perdue, Edith Smoak, and John C. Boyce. We also had some repeat donors from our first time students at the February art.

William A. Hunter, president of the Farmers National Bank, took top honor for the day as he received his 8-gallon pin. Bill has set a real goal for many of us to strive for. Aldon Hamlin and Patricia Seay received 4-gallon pins. Gail Craft received a 3-gallon pin. Two-gallon pins went to Bill L. Fox, and Kenneth Franklin. Receiving one-gallon pins were: Dorothy F. Garrett, Linda F. Welch, (from Richmond), Wilson Staples, Patsy H. Wallace and Gloria P. Dashon.

Thanks again to our donors and our faithful volunteer help for our successful visit and be sure and mark your calendar for June 16, our next visit.

I am hoping we will have our "NEW LOOK" for the 80's by June but cannot be sure yet. I know you will not want to miss this and maybe our Times-Virginian photographer will get over for some pictures? I'm very excited about the "NEW LOOK" as this is the very first major change in the Red Cross blood services equipment for 20 or more years. We had a new method of taking temperatures on our April visit. Some liked and some did not, but I liked due to the fact that it saved much time and made errors practically impossible. Just took 15 seconds and there was your temperature reading in digital letters. What will be next?

See you in June,
Alice Martin, Chm.
Blood Services

Volunteer rescue squad responds to 61 calls

Volunteer members of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad responded to a total of 61 calls during the months of March. In response to these calls, members traveled a total of 2,385 miles and spent 212¾ manhours.

C.P.R. and blocked airway demonstrations were given by squad members in schools and civic organizations.

The squad used the E.K.G. machine to monitor 12 persons en route to the hospital. There were 10 persons who required oxygen while en route to hospital.

A breakdown of the calls is as follows: nosebleed, 2; convulsion, 2; breathing difficulty, 2; overdose, 2; fall, 6; abdominal pains, 2; stroke, 3; automobile accident, 4; motorcycle accident, 1; heart attack, 6; chest pains, 6; broken bones, 2; diabetic coma, 2; gun shot, 1; call cancelled, 1; transport, 14; false call, 2; and miscellaneous, 4.

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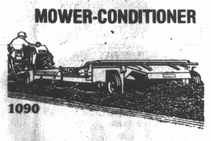

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Obituaries

Fannie S. Dearing

Mrs. Fannie Sowell Dearing, of Route 5, Lynchburg, died Thursday, April 10, at her residence.

She was born in Campbell County, a daughter of the late Alexander and Eula Whitlow Dearing. She was the widow of John Davis Dearing. She was a member of Fairview Methodist Church. She was the owner and operator of the Eastbrook Grocery.

She is survived by a son, J. Victor Dearing, of Lynchburg; a granddaughter, Miss Stephanie A. Dearing of Lynchburg; a grandson, John V. Dearing Jr. of Lynchburg; and four sisters, Mrs. Evan E. DeJarnette of Appomattox, Mrs. Charles Puckett and Mrs. Ocie E. DeJarnette, both of Rustburg, and Mrs. Warner W. Mason of Lynchburg.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Whitten Funeral Home Chapel by the Rev. James E. Powell Jr. Interment was in Fort Hill Memorial Park.

Henry H. Haskins

Funeral services for Henry H. Haskins were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Charlotte County with interment in the church cemetery.

West Funeral Home of Appomattox was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. William W. Moore

Maggie Shaner Moore, 86, of Lynchburg died Monday, April 7, in Guggenheimer Memorial Hospital. Her husband was the late William Washington Moore.

Born in Amherst County, she was a daughter of the late Seymore Tuper Shaner and Alicia Butler Shaner. She was a lifetime member of Trinity Unity Methodist Church and a charter member of the United Methodist Women of Trinity Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. George L. (Gladys) Bray of Madison Heights and Mrs. Frank H. (Martha) Cofflin, Sr. of Lynchburg; two sons, Howard Ray Moore and Allen Butler Moore, both of Route 2, Concord; 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday in Trinity United Methodist Church by the Revs. James M. Becker and Stephen Hassmer. Burial was in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Frank W. Wegner

Frank William Wegner, 82, of Route 3, Appomattox, died Tuesday, April 8, 1980, in Guggenheimer Memorial Hospital, Lynchburg.

He was the husband of the late Julie Turner Wegner. He was born in Marion, N.D., a son of the late Carl and Elsie Ditz Wegner. He was a retired farmer and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion, N.D.

He is survived by four daughters, daughters, Mrs. Ruby Thomas of Appomattox, Mrs. Myrtle Witt of Lynchburg, Mrs. Doris Kitchen of Jacksonville, Texas, and Mrs. Elsie Harris of Afton; two brothers, William Wegner of Oakes, N.D., and Fred Wegner of Long Beach, Calif., three sisters, Mrs. Elise Schwartz of Valley City, N.D., Mrs. Elsie Neumann and Miss Martha Wegner, both of Litchville, N.D.; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 4 p.m. Friday from Robinson Funeral Home with burial in New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

William A. Wood

William (Pomp) Alexander Wood, 90, of Gladstone, died April 8, 1980, at his home.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. (Annie Gay) Doyle Martin of Lynchburg; a sister, Mrs. Mildred W. Anderson of Dillwyn; a brother, Fred G. Wood of Richmond, and three grandchildren, Michael, Doyle, Jr. and Bennie Martin, all of Lynchburg.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday in Dunkum Funeral Home, Dillwyn, with interment in the family cemetery.

Mr. Wood served as commissioner of revenue of Buckingham County for 38 years. He was a member of Mulberry Grove Baptist Church, and a member of the Buckingham Lodge No. 242 A.F. & A.M. for more than 60 years.

Ernest W. Harwood

PAMPLIN - Ernest W. Harwood, 83, of Route 1, Pamplin, died Sunday at his residence.

Born July 21, 1896 in Appomattox County, he was a son of the late John William Harwood and Alice N. Drinkard Harwood. He was a member of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin and a retired certified public accountant.

He is survived by a brother, Frank S. Harwood of Red Bank, N. J.; a sister, Mrs. Edith Harwood Hix of Richmond, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Walkers Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Hixburg.

Shorter Funeral Home, Farmville, was in charge of arrangements.

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Pamplin news

Visitors in town for Easter weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis, Ms. Donna Smith, Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. David Savitz, Roanoke, and Ronnie Richardson, of Blacksburg.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lantz and sons, Joshua and Travis, of Fredericksburg, spent Easter with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Booker.

Mrs. C. W. Slayton returned home Sunday from the Nelson Clinic in Richmond.

Mrs. Earl Smith and Mrs. C. V. Wingfield visited relatives in Norfolk during the Easter holidays.

Mrs. Dorothy Canada, of Ashland, spent last Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Inge.

Pamplin Chapter 58 of Eastern Star had installation of officers on March 24. They were Verdella V. Hamilton, worthy matron; Edward Ranson, worthy patron; Eloise Bryant, associate matron; Horace Coleman, associate patron; Virginia Vaughan, secretary; Florence Ranson, treasurer; Ruth Patterson, conductress; Lucy Garrett, chaplain; Edith Tolley, marshall; Martha Whitehead, organist; Helen Inge, Ada; Frances Morton, Ruth; Christine Ranson, Esther; Aileene Harvey, Martha; Louise Rosser, Electa; Jimmy Rosser, Warder; Jeanette Coleman, sentinel. The installing officers were Ellen O'Brien, past matron, installing officer, past matron, Mary Jane Haley, past matron, installing marshall; Jessie Carwile, past matron, installing organist; Bea Mann, past matron, installing chaplin; Gladys Moring, past matron, installing warder and Ruby Inge, past matron, installing sentinel.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Coleman, of Seven Springs Farm, returned recently from Norfolk.

The Pamplin Chapter of AARP met last Thursday evening in the Educational Building of Pamplin United Methodist Church with a covered dish supper. Mr. Sam Bi) Crockett, Assistant State Director of Sale, was guest speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Inge spent Easter week end in Earleysville with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Gray Inge.

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12	L78 x 15	Polyglas Whitewall	80.86	59.95

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